

The Zebulon Planning Area (the Town plus its built-up periphery and Wakefield community) had a population of 2,080 in 1960. With a continuation of past trends, the Zebulon Planning Area will have a population of about 2,500 by 1970 and 3,000 by 1980.

### C. Natural Increase vs Migration

The population of a town can change in five different ways - - people are born, people die, people move to town, people leave town, or the town itself expands to include more people. The first four of these changes are taking place every day of the year in most towns. There are few sizable towns that do not annex at least some territory from one decennial census to the next. It is useful to examine just how these different ways of change worked in Zebulon, while the total population was increasing by 156 people from 1950 to 1960.

#### Population Change in Zebulon, 1950 - 1960

Age Group	Actual 1950 Population	Expected 1960 Population	Actual 1960 Population	Differences Between 1960 Expected and 1960 Actual Population
0-4	155	170	154	-16
5-14	213	305	304	- 1
15-24	229	212	202	-10
25-34	269	228	181	-47
35-44	191	266	222	-44
45-54	135	187	202	+15
55-64	111	130	114	-16
65+	75	154	155	+ 1
TOTAL	1,378	1,633	1,534	-99

When the births and deaths that occurred between 1950 and 1960 are added and subtracted from the 1950 population, an "expected" 1960 population is obtained. This expected population excludes the changes that took place because of people moving into town, people leaving town, and annexation. In the table above we see that there was a net out-migration of 99 people from Zebulon during the 1950-60 decade. We also note that the greatest loss of people was in the age group 25 to 44. A loss of population in these ages is particularly detrimental to a town's economy because the major expenditures of a lifetime - - for homes, autos, and other costly items - - are made during those years.